

## New Soldiers Guide slated for Jan. release



A new guide that condenses many Army regulations and field manuals into one easy-to-use book will soon be available in January to soldiers everywhere. The new *Soldiers Guide*, FM 7-21.13, will be published in late January. It will replace FM 21-13, which was

published in 1961. The new guide will give soldiers of all ranks a handbook they can use for their entire military career, said *Soldiers Guide* task manager, Steve Snyder of the Directorate of Training and Doctrine at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas.

The book is designed to compliment the *NCO Guide*, FM 7-22.7, and covers a variety of soldier tasks including leadership and developmental counseling.

## Museum hosts entire history for Army NCOs

"Officers command units; noncommissioned officers command soldiers." So begins the history of the NCO at the U.S. Army Museum of the Noncommissioned Officer, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The museum depicts the history of the NCO from 1775 to the present. Through uniforms, weapons, equipment and chevrons, the museum chronicles the changes that have occurred in the more than 200 years of NCO history that have created today's dedicated and professional NCO Corps.

The museum details how the American movement westward, the Civil War and Indian wars affected the role

of the NCO by creating the need for stronger, more active, small-unit leaders. The last years of the 1800s and the beginning of the 1900s witnessed the rise in technology, which has had a great impact on the NCO Corps.

This coupled with the advent of the global wars drastically changed the Corps.

NCOs adapted to those changes, further developing and refining their leadership roles.

This blend of history and traditions coupled with the greater duties and responsibilities has created the dedicated professionals that make up today's NCO Corps.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To arrange group or unit tours of the museum or to request more information, call (915) 568-8646/8306 or e-mail [armsl@bliss.army.mil](mailto:armsl@bliss.army.mil).



## Imminent Danger Pay

Soldiers deployed to high-threat areas will continue to receive Imminent Danger Pay and Family Separation Pay when the new fiscal year starts Oct. 1, said Department of Defense officials.

In April, Congress authorized an increase in both Family Separation Pay (from \$100 to \$250) and Imminent Danger Pay (from \$150 to \$225).

These increases were part of the FY03 DoD Supplemental Funding. This funding was temporary and expired Sept. 30.

If Congress doesn't vote to renew the increases in Family Separation and Imminent Danger Pay, DoD will use "other authority available to the department to make up for any shortfalls," a DoD press release stated. (Army News Service)



## Changes to SDAP

The Assistant Secretary of Defense approved new Special Duty Assignment Pay (SDAP) levels that replace the current SDAP rates. The revised monthly rates are as follows: SD- 1=\$75, SD- 2=\$150, SD- 3=\$225, SD- 4=\$300, SD- 5=\$375 and SD- 6=\$450. All soldiers who are currently receiving SDAP will continue to receive the levels SDAP currently approved for the billets but at the higher dollar amounts for those SD levels.

The pay systems at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will reflect the new SDAP rates effective Oct. 1. Soldiers receiving SDAP need not process new orders in order to reflect the revised rate increase, except for new authorizations or terminations.

For more information, call DSN: 222-5843; or DSN: 221-4169; or e-mail [jane.khair@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:jane.khair@hoffman.army.mil).

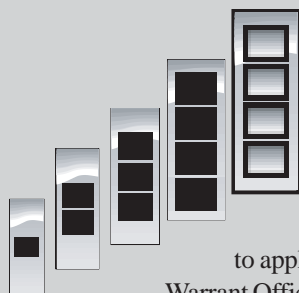
## Split disbursement required for government travel

Soldiers who use the Defense Travel Card are now required to use the split disbursement method of payment. Under split disbursement, credit card charges are automatically deducted from a soldier's travel voucher and payments are made directly to the card company. This applies to soldiers on temporary duty (TDY) travel, including partial vouchers for long-term TDY. Split disbursement

is unavailable for permanent change of station travel. For more information contact your local finance office or agency program coordinator.



## Warrant officers wanted



The United States Army is looking for highly motivated soldiers to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you're qualified. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the

Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/warrant> or DSN 536-0484/0458.

## USAMU looking for pistol shooters

The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit is looking for a few good shooters.

The highly competitive unit is putting out its annual call for soldiers who are interested in competing in pistol competitions in the summer of 2004.

"We do this every year," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles E. Gibbs, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the USAMU Service Pistol Team. "Soldiers who wish to represent the U.S. Army in pistol competition, marksmanship instruction and recruiting assistance are welcome to apply. This is a highly visible, fast-paced mission."

Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade, U.S. Army Accessions Command, Fort Monroe, Va.

The marksmanship unit trains its soldiers to win

competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics, research and development.



The world-class soldier-athletes of the USAMU also promote the Army and assist recruiters in attracting young Americans to enlist in the Army.

The Army Pistol Team is always looking for active-duty soldiers who are highly motivated, disciplined and competitive by nature, Gibbs said, adding that no previous competitive shooting experience is required.

Soldiers in the rank of staff sergeant and below with fewer than 15 years of service who obtain approval from their commanders can travel to Fort Benning, Ga., in April at the expense of the marksmanship

unit to participate in the initial training.

Once that is complete, pistol team officials will select shooters to participate in the Interservice Championships in June and the National matches in July.

After the three-month tour, soldiers return to their units with invaluable marksmanship training they can then use to improve the marksmanship skills of their soldiers, Gibbs said.

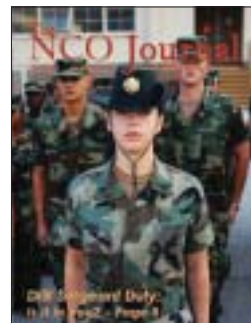
Interested soldiers can contact Gibbs at (706) 545-7022 or 545-3893 or DSN 835-7022 or e-mail:

[Charles.Gibbs@usarec.army.mil](mailto:Charles.Gibbs@usarec.army.mil)

For more information, visit the unit's Web site at [www.usamu.com](http://www.usamu.com), click on *Joining The USAMU*.

## How to get the Journal

Individual subscriptions to the *NCO Journal* will be available beginning with this issue through the Government Printing Office at the annual cost of \$16 for domestic and Army Post Office (APO) addresses or \$22.40 for delivery to foreign addresses. The subscription price covers four issues



annually. The subscription program is open to all individuals and non-government organizations. Individual copies will also be available for \$5 domestic or \$7 foreign.

If ordering by mail, send a letter requesting a subscription to the *NCO Journal* and include a check or money order payable to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, DC 20402.

To order online, visit the GPO Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> and type in "*NCO Journal*" at the search field. After the search completes, click on the shopping cart next to the title and follow the instructions provided.

The GPO also accepts orders by calling toll-free at 1-866-512-1800.

For more information on GPO publications sales, visit their Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

Any unit with a publications account can update their 12 series to request the *NCO Journal* using the same procedure they use to request all other publications. They can update their 12 series at the "<http://www.usapa.army.mil>" Web site. The IDN for the *NCO Journal* is 050041.

## NCOs needed for recruiting

United States Army Recruiting is seeking highly motivated and dedicated NCOs to assist in providing the strength of America's Army. Take the challenge and learn how you can become a member of the recruiting team if you're qualified. For more details, visit their Web site: [www.usarec.army.mil/recruiter](http://www.usarec.army.mil/recruiter) or DSN 536-0271/0215.





## Human Resources Command set to go online Oct. 2

Visitors to the U.S. Army Personnel Command and Army Reserve Personnel Command's Web pages will see a new look in October.

PERSCOM and AR-PERSCOM will merge to form the U.S. Army Human Resources Command on Oct. 2 in a Pentagon courtyard ceremony.

The new HRC Web page will go online that day, according to Col. Marshall Fite, the PERSCOM chief information officer. The front page will link to active and Army Reserve promotion and school information lists, the My2xcitizen portal, Army Knowledge Online, Assignment Satisfaction Key and the Official Military Personnel File page.

"The initial change will just be the front page of the HRC Web site. As the new organization continues to evolve, the Web site will change to reflect the organization," said Fite. "No information will be lost in the transition."

The new page can be accessed at <https://www.hrc.army.mil> as of Oct. 2.

(Editor's note: Information provided by PERSCOM Public Affairs.)



immediate plans to change the Army Physical Fitness Test, officials said, just how soldiers prepare for it.

Lt. Col. William Rieger, U.S. Army Physical Fitness School commandant, and deputy commandant Frank Palkoska said the new PT would be standardized, disciplined and have a more military appearance.

They also said the program would be designed toward the individual soldier's needs, not just a "mass one" level of participation.

Some key points in the program include improving physical fitness while controlling injuries, progressively conditioning and toughening soldiers and developing soldiers' self-confidence and discipline.

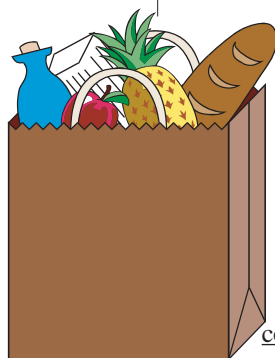
Fort Jackson, S.C., is the next installation scheduled to receive the training.

"We're going to every installation in the Army," Rieger said.

Staff Sgt. Steven Saenz, an instructor at the fitness school, said a new Army Field Manual 21-20, *Physical Fitness*, is in the works, but will not be available for a few years.

## DECA kicks off 'Gift of Groceries' program

In an attempt to help families deal with the economic stresses that come with deployments, the Defense Commissary Agency started the "Gift of Groceries" program.



the Air Force Aid Society, the Fisher House Foundation and United Services Organization.

They also may take delivery and give them to local groups or military friends and families.

For more information call 1-877-770-4438 or visit <http://www.commissaries.com>.

## New PT regimen

A team from the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School is visiting Army installations to teach a new exercise regimen that includes pull-ups, shuttle sprints and forward lunges.

The school's commandant began by visiting Fort Bliss, Texas, Sept. 17 to teach physical training instructors the exercises. Fort Bliss was the first installation introduced to the program. There are no

## National Guard announces NCOs and Soldiers of the Year

The Army National Guard has named 16 soldiers as their best and brightest from their respective regions.

Congratulations to the following soldiers and NCOs:

❑ 1st Army North Soldier of the Year, Spc. Gregory Gustavson, Connecticut; NCO of the Year, Sgt. Thomas Olsen, New York.

❑ 1st Army South Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Terry Horn, Kentucky; NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Jamey Murphy, Tennessee.

❑ 1st Army East Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Daniel Stasney,

Maryland; NCO of the Year, Sgt. Brian Morrow, Maryland.

❑ 1st Army West Soldier of the Year, Spc. Daniel Jackan,

Wisconsin; NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Richard Christianson Jr., Pennsylvania.

❑ 5th Army East Soldier of the Year, Spc. Christopher Russell, Arkansas; NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Craig Hale, Texas.



❑ 5th Army Northwest Soldier of the Year, Sgt. Jason Groon, South Dakota; NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Gary Neal, Idaho.

❑ 5th Army Southwest Soldier of the Year, Spc. Scott Campbell, Utah; NCO of the Year, Sgt. Anthony Burton, Colorado.

❑ U.S. Army Pacific Soldier of the Year, Spc. Kimberly Ruffner, Alaska; NCO of the Year, Sgt. Charles Hooper, Alaska.

The program, created through a business agreement with CertiChecks Inc., allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates via the DeCA Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, or by calling a toll-free U.S.-only number, 1-877-770-4438.

Certificates are good in any of DeCA's 280 stores worldwide — only authorized commissary shoppers can redeem them.

"Gift of Groceries" donors can choose to forward their gift to one of three charitable groups currently participating:

## Fall In

### Group seeks teddy bears for military children



It's not easy being a child whose mom or dad is deployed overseas to a combat zone. It can be confusing and lonely, and sometimes, downright scary.

That's why a California-based nonprofit group wants to put into every affected military child's hands that quintessentially American yet internationally understood symbol of comfort and friendship: the teddy bear.

Operation TeddyCare, a California-based nonprofit group, is the labor of love of a disabled Vietnam veteran and his wife. Barbara Moran and her husband, psychologist Dr. Bob Baker, already have donated 2,500 teddy bears to military children of deployed servicemembers. Each bear, presented through military family service centers, comes with a personalized certificate of appreciation "for being brave and helpful while your parent served in the line of duty."

To contribute, send teddy bears or checks to: Operation TeddyCare, Suite Q, 80 N. Cabrillo Highway, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. Designate contributions "For military kids." For more information about the program, visit <http://teddycare.coastside.net>. (American Forces Press Service)

### Army provides soldiers, family members 24/7 telephone support

It's a 24/7 toll-free telephone number for information and referral service for soldiers, deployed civilians and their families, said Carla Cary, Family Advocacy Program specialist at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

Since Aug. 15, the service has been fully operational for Army installations and U.S. Army Reserve components worldwide.

From the United States, callers can dial (800) 464-8107. From outside the United States dial the appropriate access code to reach a U.S. number and then (800) 464-81077 – all 11 digits must be dialed. Hearing-impaired callers should use (800) 364-9188 and Spanish speakers may dial (888) 732-9020.

"There is no phone tree, no menu. The phones are answered by people," Cary said. "The overseas toll-free number has an extra digit that identifies it as toll free. From countries where toll-free calls are not available, customers will be able to call collect."

Stateside active-duty and demobilized National Guard and Reserve soldiers, deployed civilians and their families can also arrange for up to six face-to-face private counseling sessions with licensed clinical social workers who know the military environment.

The contractor operating the service will collect information about local family programs and morale, welfare and recreation from one point of contact in the installation Army Community Service program so callers will receive information about programs geographically closest to them.

The service is available to the immediate family of single soldiers.

"[The] staff knows the Army and they know who's eligible to use Army services and receive benefits," said Cary. "If a parent calls and they are not eligible to use Army programs, the consultants have information about

what's available in the civilian community."

The staff will provide bilingual and multicultural personnel capable of communicating in Spanish, Korean and German.

"The Army recognizes that deployments are tough on everyone and that homecoming is potentially the most difficult phase of deployment," Cary said. "It's very important for soldier and family morale to have immediate access to information about Army programs and services."

(Editor's note: Information taken from a U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center news release.)

### NCOJ goes interactive

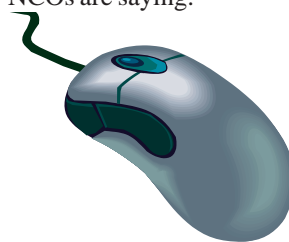
The *NCO Journal* wants to hear your feedback and your opinions on issues that affect the NCO Corps every day.

Every few weeks, the *Journal* staff will post questions on their Web site, <http://usasma.bliss.army.mil/journal>. The questions will all be open-ended, designed to seek out your opinion, views and/or experiences on a variety of issues. You may respond to one or all of them; it all depends on how strongly you feel about each issue.

We will review and compile your responses to be used in future *Journal* news and feature articles, as well as some informational "News McNuggets" to share with our readers.

The first set of questions include, "What's your best individual tip for preparing for deployment?" and "Why do you think family care plans are/are not effective?"

The *Journal* staff will change the questions every few weeks, so visit the site frequently to share your opinions and see what other NCOs are saying.



### Pubs clerks can order NCO Guides



Any unit with a Publications account can order copies of *The Army Noncommissioned Officer Guide* using the same procedure they use to request all other publications. Publication clerks may order the Guide at <http://www.usapa.army.mil> Web site. The IDN for the Guide is 111058.